

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, FEB. 20, 1854.

Authorized Agents for the Journal.

JAMES M. HARRISON, Tarboro', Edgecombe co., N. C.
JOHN J. HARRISON, Clinton, Sampson county.
JOSEPH R. KEMP, Bladen county.
JAMES H. MENDRITS, Gravelly Hill, Bladen co.
B. BARNES, Black Creek, Wayne county.
LEWIS JONES, Pink Hill P. O., Lenoir county.

The River and Bars.

Our citizens received, with feelings of the highest gratification, the news of the prompt passage through the Senate of an independent bill, making further appropriation for the improvement of the Cape Fear River, as also for reimbursing our citizens the sixty thousand dollars advanced for the carrying on of the work in the mean time—the whole amount appropriated being \$200,000. The vote upon the bill was nearly if not quite unanimous, showing the appreciation of the work, both in regard to its national utility and absolute necessity, entertained by that exalted body. It is sincerely to be hoped and trusted, that a work which commended itself so strongly to the Senate, will meet with equally prompt action in the House. We cannot foresee any reasonable grounds of opposition which can be taken against it, and we co-incide fully in the views expressed by Mr. Dodge, that such works should come in, each standing on its own merits. We now waive, as we did on a former occasion, all our own individual feelings which might have arisen out of some occurrences last year, and as citizens of Wilmington and conductors of a public press, join in the general expression of obligation to Mr. Badger for his active and efficient exertions in favor of this much needed work—a work also which appeals to the general government with the force of a moral obligation, since the obstructions complained of have been, to a considerable extent, at least, created by works erected for the protection of United States property.

In our opinion, we run no risk in pledging the united support and exertions of our delegation in the House to this appropriation. At the last session of the Legislature of North Carolina, resolutions were passed pressing this work in strong and emphatic language upon the favorable attention. Mr. Ashe, we know, has it deeply at heart, as we believe all the other North Carolina members have, at least all with whom we have had the pleasure of an acquaintance. The constitutional reasons which would operate to prevent the Democratic members from voting for any general bill containing measures of more than doubtful constitutionality will not apply to this. We remember having a conversation with Hon. J. R. J. Daniel on this subject nearly two years ago, and this was his view. Mr. Daniel, it will be remembered, was, while in Congress, one of the strictest of strict constructionists, and we are inclined to believe that what came within the just and proper jurisdiction of Congress, as understood by him, might be safely taken on credit. This work requires still greater importance from the effort now being made by our citizens for the establishment of a Steam Communication with Havana, and the near approach of the time when this will become a point of shipment for coal.

On motion by Mr. BADGER, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of a bill, making further appropriation for the improvement of Cape Fear River, North Carolina, which was read. It appropriates the sum of one hundred and forty thousand dollars for the year ending June 30, 1855, to be expended under the superintendence of the Secretary of War, for the continuation of the improvement of the Cape Fear river, North Carolina, at or near its communication with the ocean; and the further sum of sixty thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary, to refund to the citizens of Wilmington, North Carolina, the amounts contributed by them to said improvement, and expended thereon by the agent of the United States in charge of the work.

No amendment being made, the bill was reported to the Senate.

Mr. DODGE, of Iowa. I wish to inquire of the honorable senator from North Carolina whether the bill has been reported from the Committee on Commerce, and whether the appropriation is in accordance with the estimate of the department.

Mr. BADGER, of N. C. I will state to my friend that the bill has not been reported. It was not referred to the Committee on Commerce, as the subject is perfectly understood by the Senate, and my friend at the head of that committee thought there was no necessity at all for referring the bill to the committee.

Mr. DODGE, of Iowa. I wish, Mr. President, to express my entire approbation of the course which has been pursued by the honorable senator from North Carolina in reference to this matter; and it is one which I intend to pursue in regard to a matter of great interest to the section of country from whence I come. I think it is proper and right in cases of this kind to allow a bill to stand upon its own merits, without being connected with any other. I shall vote for this bill with great pleasure.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and by unanimous consent, it was read a third time and passed.

This bill is now before the House of Representatives, and will, we feel certain, be pushed with energy, and we hope, success. It would be a great thing for this place. By a concentrated effort it may be got through, for we can see no reason operating against it, either of constitutional scruple or want of practical value.

Hon. JUDGE STRANGE.—We regret to hear of the very severe—and it is to be feared, likely to prove fatal—illness of this distinguished gentleman. Some time in the early part of last week he was stricken with paralysis, and has since been in a very precarious state, being unable to articulate save in monosyllables. We hope that the state of Judge Strange's health may prove to be less critical than rumor has represented; and that he may yet be restored to society, of which he is so valuable a member.

THE MAILS.—We notice that the Charleston Chamber of Commerce has had a meeting in regard to the present mail arrangement, and appointed a committee to endeavor to have the mail which now arrives there in the afternoon arrive at 6 o'clock in the morning. This could only be effected by connecting with the morning mail at this place instead of the night mail. It depends on the South Carolina Railroad making a connection at the proper time with the Manchester cars.

THE NOMINATION OF GEORGE N. SAUNDERS AS CONSUL TO LONDON has been rejected by the Senate.—Just what we expected. Served him right!

NEW IRON STEAMER.—The firm of Betts, Pusey & Co., Wilmington, Del., are now engaged in building an iron steamer for the Cape Fear Steamboat Company. She is intended to run on the Cape Fear river, between Wilmington and Fayetteville, N. C.

Senator Sam Houston of Texas, made a speech in the Senate on the 14th and 15th, against the Nebraska Bill. He was very bitter, especially denouncing it as an injustice to the Indian tribes. Mr. Houston's opposition amounts simply to his own vote. He was within a week lecturing upon this topic, in the most anti-slavery parts of New England. Old Sam probably counts Northern support for the Presidency. There is good reason to hope that the Anti-Nebraska excitement at the North, has reached its highest point, and is already subsiding. Even the "Softs" are unalarmed, and will generally vote for the bill, as we presume will also the "Hardy." At the North the vote will be pretty nearly a party vote. Every Democrat may not vote for it, nor every Whig against it, but still the vast majority of its Northern supporters will be Democrats—with an immensely slim sprinkling of Whigs; if, indeed, there be any Northern Whigs in favor of the bill.

The revision of the Tariff, with the view of bringing the revenue within the limits required by the necessities of the government, is now occupying the attention of the committee of ways and means in the House, and it is probable that a bill will shortly be reported.

The very large amount of land granted by way of pension warrants, has nearly all been taken up; the various works for which alternate sections have been granted by Congress, are going into operation, and bringing the remaining sections into market, at an enhanced value—all these causes, combined with the high price of produce, and the general prosperity of the agricultural interest, combine to swell the receipts from the sales of public lands, which bid fair during the present year, to reach as high as ten millions of dollars if not higher, adding still another element of repulsion to the Treasury, and another argument in favor of a still nearer approach to untrammelled commerce.

The Deficiency Bill, making further appropriations for carrying on works during the present fiscal year, after three weeks spent upon it in the House, has finally been killed in that body, owing to what were considered features of unnecessary extravagance.—It has all to be commenced over again.

Hon. J. CLEMENS, of Alabama, has been writing a letter to John Van Buren upon the Nebraska Bill, in which he takes ground against it. Mr. Clemens was only half dead before. He has now given himself the finishing stroke.

Among the appointments recently confirmed by the Senate, we notice that of James Gadsden, of South Carolina, as Minister to Mexico, and of D. K. McRae of North Carolina as Consul to Paris.

FIRE IN PETERSBURG.—A destructive fire broke out in Petersburg, Va., on the night of the 16th inst., destroying property to the value of \$120,000.—Amongst the buildings burnt was the large Episcopal Church. (St. Paul's), which was totally destroyed. The fire was first discovered in the large Tobacco Factory on Sycamore Street and it was still raging at a quarter to one o'clock, A. M., on the 17th, when the *Express* went to press. The following are the particulars given by the *Express*:

Last night about ten minutes to eleven o'clock, our citizens were again aroused by the startling cry of fire, which was caused by the flames bursting forth from the roof of the large Tobacco Factory on Sycamore Street, occupied by Messrs. Williams & Brooks. A few minutes after its discovery, the entire building was wrapped in a sheet of flame, and all efforts to save it proved utterly hopeless.

The intense heat speedily communicated to the large and splendid Protestant Episcopal Church, (St. Paul's), on the north, and to the new block of buildings on the South, which are now as we write, burning furiously from top to bottom.

The Centre Warehouse, Messrs. Wyatt & Black, Inspectors, is also on fire, and it is thought will be entirely consumed. The Church is a total loss, the steeple having fallen in, at the time we now write, half past 12 o'clock.

The tenements, five in number, were occupied by the following gentlemen: No. 1. By Mr. Wm. Ingram, dealer in teas and fancy goods. Loss \$5,000.—insured for \$2,000.

No. 2. Occupied by Mr. Samuel A. Brown, as a Coach and Buggy Warehouse. Mr. Brown's family, consisting of wife and four children, were sleeping in the building. Loss \$10,000.—insured for \$3,000.

No. 3. Owned by Mr. Dinwiddie Grigg, and occupied by his family, and below by Messrs. Grigg & Coghill, Commission Merchants. Mr. Grigg is insured, but it is impossible at the late hour to ascertain to what amount, so great is the consternation prevailing.

No. 4. Occupied by Mr. A. H. Jagueneau recently from Norfolk, as a Family Grocery, and owned by Mr. Dinwiddie Grigg. Mr. Jagueneau is not insured for a dollar. We presume there is an insurance on the house.

No. 5. Occupied by Messrs. Wyatt & Black, Inspectors, as an Office.

St. Paul's Church, was built about ten years ago, we learn, at a cost of some \$30,000; and last summer was splendidly repaired throughout. Insured for \$6,000 only.

P. S. We hear the fire has been nearly subdued, and was confined to the three story block of buildings on the south of the Tobacco factory. The origin of the fire we cannot ascertain.

THE GADSDEN TREATY PROVISIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The following are the principal provisions of Mr. Gadsden's treaty, now before the Senate:

1st. The new boundary commences two marine leagues north of the mouth of the Colorado, giving us no access to the Gulf of California, and goes between latitude thirty-one and thirty-two to the one hundred and eleventh degree of longitude west of Greenwich.

2d. It abrogates the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and cancels claims of Mexican citizens under that article to date of ratification.

3d. The United States pay fifteen millions of dollars in monthly installments of three millions each—the first payable on ratification of the treaty.

4th. Reserves five millions for claims of American citizens in Mexico, including the Garay grant.

5th. Both governments agree to put down filibustering, and pursue the filibusters with army and navy into the other's territory.

6th. Agrees to refund goods and chatties stolen by Indians from citizens of the others country.

The President amends No. 5 by striking out the pursuit by land and sea into the others territory, and amends No. 4 by not mentioning any particular claim.

The amendments are very important. The treaty will be ratified in its new form.

LATER FROM RIO.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 15.—The barque Rainbow, with Rio de Janeiro dates to Jan. 7, arrived here to-day.

RIO MARKETS.—Coffee very firm, and would advance but for a scarcity of shipping. We quote superiors at 5/100, good firsts 4/100 a 4/170. Clearances for the year, 150,000 bags less than the previous year. Stock 261,000 bags. Flour firm.

Great Freshet.

ALBANY, Feb. 16.—There is a great freshet in the Hudson river at this time. The docks in this city are overflowed, and it is feared the damage will be serious.

Opposition to the Nebraska Bill.

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—A large number of Free Soil politicians assembled in Faneuil Hall to-day, to express opposition to the Nebraska bill.

HEAD-QUARTERS IN THE SADDLE.—When Gen. Wool was commanding in Mexico, his division was kept constantly on the move—so constantly that no time could be found nor place fixed to locate the headquarters of the army. He accordingly published, in one of his daily orders, that "hereafter the headquarters of this division will be in saddle." It was very grand and Mars-like declaration, but the grandeur was all destroyed by a wagish old Major, who, carefully reading the proclamation, remarked "that it was really wonderful; he had been in the army forty years, and always before supposed that hind-quarters belonged in the saddle."

From the Boston Post, Feb. 11, 1854.
Jefferson and the Wilnot Proviso.
There is no name oftener invoked in favor of the Wilnot proviso than that of the illustrious Jefferson. From his earliest entrance into public life until its final close he declared himself opposed to slavery; and his great aim in life was to destroy it. He was within a week lecturing upon this topic, in the most anti-slavery parts of New England. Old Sam probably counts Northern support for the Presidency. There is good reason to hope that the Anti-Nebraska excitement at the North, has reached its highest point, and is already subsiding. Even the "Softs" are unalarmed, and will generally vote for the bill, as we presume will also the "Hardy." At the North the vote will be pretty nearly a party vote. Every Democrat may not vote for it, nor every Whig against it, but still the vast majority of its Northern supporters will be Democrats—with an immensely slim sprinkling of Whigs; if, indeed, there be any Northern Whigs in favor of the bill.

We allude to the Missouri question of 1820. This question was, whether Missouri should come into the Union with or without restrictions prohibiting slavery. It was then a single case, of the general power known as the Wilnot proviso. To the exercise of such restriction he was strongly opposed. His letters of this period—and democrats are sure will read them with deep interest—will show conclusively that no one could be more deadly hostile to the restrictive principle, or the exercise of this unconstitutional power, than was Thomas Jefferson.

The first allusion we find in his letters is under the date of December 10, 1819, in a letter addressed to John Adams. He says: "The banks, bankrupt law, manufactures, Spanish treaty, are nothing. These are occurrences which, like waves in a storm, will pass under the ship. But the Missouri question is a breaker on that shore, and it will not pass. The battle of Bunker's Hill to the treaty of Paris we never had so ominous a question. It even damps the joy with which I hear of your high health, and welcomes to me the consequence of my want of it. I thank God that I shall not live to witness its issue. *Sed hoc hecumenon.*"

On the 13th of April, 1820, he wrote to William Short. The old schism of federal and republican threatened nothing, because it existed in every State, and united them together by the fraternalism of party. But the coincidence of a marked principle, moral and political, with a geographical line, once conceived, I feared would never more be obliterated from the mind; that it would be recurring on every occasion, and that it would kindle such mutual and mortal hatred as to render separation preferable to eternal discord. I have been among the most sanguine in believing that our Union, would be of long duration. I now doubt it much, and see the event at no great distance, and the direct consequence of this question; not by the line which has been so confidently counted on—his laws of Nature control this—but by the Potomac, Ohio, and Missouri—its line, and the Mississippi upwards to our northern boundary. My only comfort and confidence is, that I shall not live to see this; and I envy not the present generation the glory of throwing away the fruits of their fathers' sacrifice of life and fortune, and of rendering desperate the experiment which was to decide ultimately whether man is capable of self-government. This treason against history, indeed, for the epoch in future history, as the counterpart of the medal of their predecessors, as Mr. Holmes, of Maine, member of Congress, addressed Jefferson a letter, which drew from him the following remarkable reply:—

MONTICELLO, April 22, 1820.
"I thank you, dear Sir, for the copy you have been so kind as to send me of the letter to your constituents. It is a noble and a perfect specimen of oratory to them. I had for a long time ceased to read newspapers, or pay any attention to public affairs, confident they were in good hands, and content to be a passenger in our bark to the shore from which I am not distant. But this momentous question, like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is a hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a privilege only, not a final sentence. A geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper. I can say, with conscious truth, that there is not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would to see this Union, in one scale, and the principles of the Constitution, in the other, weighed, and found wanting. The question of that kind of property (for so it is misnamed) is a bagatelle which will not cost me a second thought, if in that way a general emancipation and expatriation could be effected; and, gradually, and with due sacrifice, I think it might be. But as it is, we have the war by the ears, and we can neither hold him nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and the principles of the Constitution, in the other, weighed, and found wanting. The question of that kind of property (for so it is misnamed) is a bagatelle which will not cost me a second thought, if in that way a general emancipation and expatriation could be effected; and, gradually, and with due sacrifice, I think it might be. 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